

November 2017 News Letter

CISK LAGER DOUBLES LEAGUE

This month saw the end of the Cisk Lager Doubles League. Week 22 saw Ballbarians take the lead from MyBet, with Double Impact in 3rd and Ozone in 4th. However it was not over yet, as there was still a position night to be played which would change the top 4 standings. Ballbarians faced MyBet and in a very close match managed to win the full 8 points, to win the league. Double Impact faced Ozone and they also won 6-2 to secure the 3rd place.

Top 4 standings were as follows:

Ballbarians – Mark Spiteri, Claude Camilleri and Philippe Vancelle (136), **MyBet** – Kenneth Arpa and Dennis Mercieca (123), **Double Impact** – Sue Abela, Matthew Magro and Justin Caruana Scicluna (117) and **Ozone** – Mark Muscat and Mauro Anastasi (110).



Winners Ballbarians

Highest bowlers for this league were: Mauro Anastasi (212.86) and Sue Abela (208.60).

MAPFRE MSV LIFE LEAGUES

The National Leagues are nearly over. In fact, Division 2 played their last match this week. The champions are Strike Me Jabaal (112), followed by Blitzkrieg (110), while Supersonic clinched the 3rd spot (102).



Winners Strike Me Jabaal – Division 2 Champions (Stephanie Said, Liliana Spiteri, Daniel Grech, Nicholas Zahra, Cole Cooper, Jonathan Sciberras)

Regarding division 1, with still a week to go, Fina are reconfirmed champions for the 2nd season in a row, 2nd place goes to okmalta.com, while finally Turu's Knights managed to clinch a third place after an 8 year break. **A note to division 1 bowlers: Please do not forget that next week league will be played on Wednesday 6th December.**

On the other hand, division 3 still has two weeks to go as they have a position night. So far The Scotsman Pub are leading, followed by Ready Steady Bowl and One For All.

COMPOSITE AVERAGE

The top bowlers per composite average as at end November are: Justin Caruana Scicluna 1st (208.33), Mauro Anastasi 2nd (205.5) and Mark Spiteri 3rd (202.92). In the female category Sue Abela retained the top spot (204.35), Tiziana Carannante follows (194.64), while Melissa Swift is 3rd with (189).

Top bowlers for the youths are Sara Xuereb (189), Alessia Schembri (175.4), and Raquel Xuereb (170.16), while in the boys' division we have Matthew Magro (187.95), Kurt Attard (183.11) and Edward Xuereb (172.46).

FLANDERS SENIOR OPEN

3 of our bowlers namely Sammy Borg, Tony Paris and Mark Spiteri participated for the first time in the Flanders Senior Open. This was in Deurne Belgium and attracted 77 bowlers. The level of competition was high, and the cut was 1342 (224 average). It was heart-warming to see athletes well over 70 years of age bowling 200+ average, this coupled by a 1 pin handicap per year, so another 150 pins over and above.

Mark bowled a 1309 but could only manage to place 32nd overall. However there were 3 bowlers who made the cut through their scratch series and he failed to make it by 3 pins. Sammy placed 51st (1247), while Tony placed 77th (1082). Sammy failed to pass through the desperado by just 5 pins.

In all this first experience was very satisfactory. Everyone was so friendly, offering us free transport from and to the airport as well as a free buffet meal for all the bowlers.



NATIONAL JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS – SPONSORED BY BANK OF VALLETTA

This year we had 35 competitors some of who participated in more than 1 category.



BANK OF VALLETTA: U12 – MINI JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

This was the 4th time the association held these championships for the growing number of young bowlers interested in our sport and this year we had no less than 13 competitors, 4 girls and 9 boys. All our youngsters had to play 4 games on day 1 and another 4 games on day 2. From day 1 Kathryn Fenech lead the girls' category followed by Karlise Bartolo, and it looked clear that these two young ladies would clinch the 1st and 2nd spots respectively. The tussle would be for 3rd place, and in the end it was the more experienced Celianne Micallef who nipped the 3rd place by 30 pins. Kudos goes to Mia Bugeja, who has only been practicing for a couple of months and she bowled a good 59 average.



The boys' category proved to be much more exciting as it was touch and go who would win this title. Kayden Lagana lead day one by 5 pins over Christopher Fenech, while the youngest of the lot, Nicolai Mallia was in close pursuit just 8 pins away from 2nd. The latter dropped his average on day 2, and whilst Kayden was leading till the 5th frame of the last game, he got a succession of splits, whilst Christopher Fenech managed to beat him by 12 pins, thus earning this year's championship title. Kayden had to settle for 2nd place, whilst 3rd place went to Nicolai.

So this year we have two brand new champions: Siblings Christopher and Kathryn Fenech.



BANK OF VALLETTA: U16 – JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

This year we had 9 boys and 3 girls competing for the Junior Championships and all players had to play 12 games, 6 games on day 1 and 6 games on day 2. This year Sara Xuereb had no tangible competition as the other 2 competitors were 12 and 13 years old and she easily won the title for the 4th time in a row. 2nd place went to the U12 Champion Kathryn Fenech, whilst Ruslana Grima settled for the 3rd place, just two pins short from 2nd.

The boys' category was a keen race between last year's U16 champion Edward Xuereb, and last year's runner up. Edward rolled a 1141 on day one, followed by Matthew Magro (1116) and Dwayne Zahra (1065). However on day 2, Edward started with two low games, while Matthew started with a 247 and a 192, and positions were shifted. By the 4th game Magro was leading by 156 pins, but as any bowler can tell, the impossible can happen in our game. In fact while Matthew rolled a 145 and a 142, Edward was on fire with a 224 and 234 to defend the title by 15 pins. Matthew had to content with being runner up, while Dwayne Zahra placed 3rd.



Both U16 champions defended last years' title, as Sara won it for a staggering 4 times, beating the record previously held by Amanda Cini and Tiziana Carannante (3 times). Her brother Edward on the other hand, has won these championships for the 2nd time in a row, being the youngest to ever win an under 16 championship.



BANK OF VALLETTA: U23 – INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

4 girls and 14 boys participated in this category, all trying to make the round robin. While the girls had no problem making it through as there were only 4 competitors, it was a different matter altogether in the boys' category! Day 1 saw Kurt Attard take the early lead with a 1151 series, with Edward Xuereb hot on heels, and Matthew Magro, Philip Gruppetta, Chris Borg and Luke Burke occupying the top 6 places. Day 2 however brought changes, as whilst Kurt still lead, Philip climbed to 2nd followed by Edward and Matthew. Luke improved to 5th whilst Chris relinquished his place to Kyle Camilleri who managed to place 6th.

Round Robin Girls

Raquel Xuereb started with a low 134, and even though she made a huge effort in the last game, rolling a good 213 game, she failed to close the 95 pin deficit by just 2 pins. 3rd place went to Juliana who had one win against Alessia, while the latter also won 1 game to drop to 2nd place. On the other hand, Sara Xuereb, who started on a somewhat slow pace on the previous 2 days, won 2 of the encounters to finish in the lead.

Round Robin Boys

Once again the boys were all on even footing and all 6 could make it with the top 3. Philip won 3 matches to take the lead, with Kurt also winning 3 matches to place 2nd. The tussle was who would clinch the last place, as Magro, Xuereb and Burke were very close. In the end it was Matthew who made it through to the step ladder, winning 4 matches.



Step Ladder

Juliana faced Alessia in a low scoring match, the former winning 156-152. On the other lanes the boys' game ended with Matthew Magro beating Kurt Attard 212-162. Both winners then had to face Sara and Philip who had to be beaten twice. However this was not necessary as the previous championships remained undefeated with Sara beating Juliana 168-148, and Philip beating Matthew 177-155.



Both champions have been undefeated for 5 years in a row. Rankin Camilleri held the previous record, having won the title for 4 years (albeit not in a row), which now Philip managed to break, while Amanda Cini still holds the record having won these championships for 6 times, 5 of which were consecutive years. Of course Sara has more than enough years to catch up with this record, since she still has 7 more years to go!



MOC AWARDS

Last week we also received news that we have no less than 13 bowlers who were accepted for an MOC award. (These do not include the results of the European Championships as it was till end of October).

The bowlers are:

Athletes: Sue Abela, Tiziana Carannante, Sara Xuereb, Justin Caruana Scicluna, Mauro Anastasi and Mark Spiteri.

Youths: Shadon Psaila, Nicholas Muscat, Juliana Bonanno, Kurt Attard, Matthew Magro, Ayrton Ciangura and Edward Xuereb.



We wish them all good luck, but all will be receiving an award as that is how it goes with the Maltese Olympic Committee.

This weekend we have the Platinum Cup where 32 bowlers will participate. Squad A starts at 9.30, while B should start at 12.30.

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Regards

Liliana Spiteri